GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CIVIL AVIATION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4000
ANSWERED ON:14.12.2000
SUCKING OF AIRCRAFT IN AIR POCKET
AVSM, BRIG.(RETD.) KAMAKHYA PRASAD SINGH DEO

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether recently an Indian Airline aircraft was sucked in the air pocket at the height of around 28,000 ft.;

(b) whether any steps are being taken to detect air pockets well in advance to avoid such disaster; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV)

(a): Indian Airlines flight IC-555 of 26th September,2000 flying on the sector Chennai-Bangalore by Airbus A-300 aircraft VT-EVD while passing Flight Level 280 for Flight Level 290 encountered CAT (Clear Air Turbulence) leading to uncommanded descent.

(b) and (c): Indian Airlines A-300 aircraft are fitted with Bendix RDRIF type of Weather Radar which can defect the clounds and the turbulence in air if it is associated with precipitation. The maximum range of this Weathr Radar is 300 nautical miles.

However, there is no airborne equipment available in the market to reliably detect the air pockets without precipitation activity.